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**FOOTBALL UNION**

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RFU**



**1876-1976**

*Official Souvenir*

*Programme*

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### Vice-Presidents:

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P. G. TURNER

**Hon. Secretary:** H. V. MIDDLETON

**Assistant Hon. Secretary:** G. C. COX

**Hon. Treasurer:** J. E. STARK

**Assistant Hon. Treasurer:** M. COHEN

### Rugby Football Union

**Representative:** N. A. STEEL

**Hon. Life Member:** G. GIBSON

**Plus a Representative of all Clubs in Cheshire**

### Past Presidents:

H. M. Blythe (1880/83)

J. W. H. Thorpe (1883/1904)

J. Baxter (1904/42)

R. R. Richards (1942/47)

T. Walton (1947/49)

R. D. Nesbit (1949/51)

W. H. Pemberton (1951)

N. McCaig (1951/53)

C. H. Offland (1953)

A. S. Cain (1954/56)

J. Montador (1956/58)

P. H. Davies (1958/60)

W. M. Shennan (1960/61)

D. R. Wynn-Williams (1961/62).

W. G. Howard 1962/63)

H. V. Middleton (1963/65)

W. J. Thompson (1965/67)

G. C. Noden (1967/69)

N. A. Steel (1969/71)

J. E. Stark (1971/73)

E. J. Loader (1973/75)

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION**

On behalf of the Committee of the Rugby Football Union I warmly congratulate the Cheshire County Union on their first One Hundred Years of loyal and valuable service to our Amateur game.

Fundamentally during this period our game has not changed a great deal, although there have been innumerable changes in the Laws of the Game. Thankfully much of the traditions in Rugby Union Football have been retained for the good and it is to the constituent bodies that the R.F.U. has to give much of the credit.

Cheshire can take their fair share of praise for what they have done and still continue to do for Rugby Union Football.

In this context, it is my privilege and pleasure to wish your County Union every good fortune and success in the future.

Yours sincerely,

DICK JEEPS.

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# County President's Message

I am proud to have the honour of being President of Cheshire Rugby Football Union in its Centenary year and welcome this opportunity of paying tribute to those who, by their loyalty and devotion throughout the years, have made this great season possible.

A glance at the list of Past Presidents brings back memories of men whose performance on the field is rivalled only by their wise administration in committee. It is to them, the senior officers and Committee members that I offer sincere thanks for the never flagging enthusiasm with which they have served Cheshire. Likewise I gratefully acknowledge the part played by those chosen to play for the County over the years, many of whom received International honours, selection for the British Lions and the Barbarians.

Cheshire won the County Championship in Sseason 1949/50 and Season 1960/61 and it would be most appropriate if we were to repeat these successes in our Centenary season. There are 45 Clubs and 48 Schools in membership. Many Clubs field a "Colts XV" and Mini Rugby is rapidly growing in the County. Our Schools Section, after a most successful season, hope to tour Canada at the end of this season. Our senior side were most unlucky in last season's Championship, and the Under-23 XV gave an excellent account of themselves against Staffordshire Under-23. With this strength in depth, our County moves forward in excellent spirit.

Our list of Individual Members increases yearly and this support is very much appreciated.

In addition to the County Championship games, additional matches have been arranged for this season. I wish to welcome all teams visiting us in our Centenary year, when, as well as renewing old friendships, we shall be making new ones. We look forward to a programme that will be in keeping with the importance of the season when the quality of the Rugby Football played will be long remembered.

I gladly acknowledge the help we are receiving from the firms who are acting as Sponsors for our games, and the Patrons of our Centenary season, also those who have taken advertising space in the programme. This support is of immense value.

We are grateful to the Churches for so readily arranging and conducting the Drumhead Service prior to the Centenary Game, and to the Band of the 5th/8th Kings Regiment who appear at the game by kind permission of the Officer Commanding.

My final thanks are due to the County's Centenary Sub-Committee whose members have spared no effort to make this season a memorable one.

May those whose responsibility it will be to steer Cheshire from its second to third century look back on us, who now pilot it from its first to second century, with the same esteem because of our endeavours, as we look back on those who have guided the County to its Centenary Season.

**H. M. CURPHEY,**

**President**

# Don't carry it Harriet!



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that  
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down



CHESHIRE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1949-50





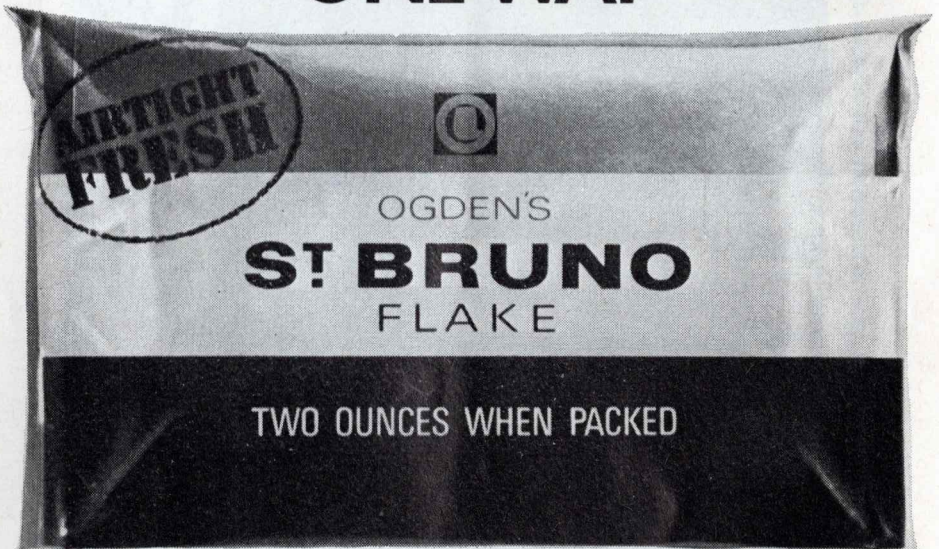
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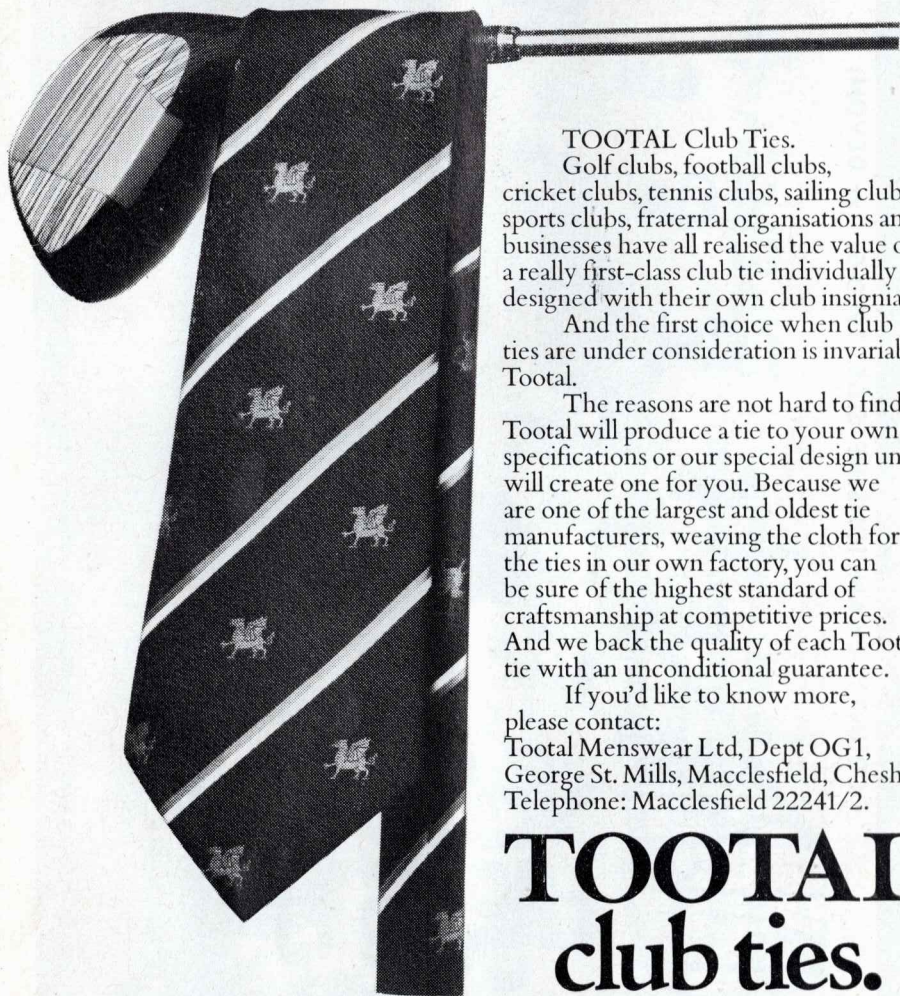


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# CHESHIRE HISTORY

Although we are celebrating our Centenary this year it must be remembered that a committee was formed in the year 1875. The first game being played in 1876.

From 1876 to 1900 there were only a small number of clubs in membership of the county union, and sadly, due to the advent of the Northern league, some of these went out of existence.

At the early part of century there was a slow assembling of clubs, and by 1936 they numbered 16.

From 1937 to 1976 Rugby Football has become increasingly popular as a participating sport and there was a tremendous increase in players. Consequently, quite a number of clubs were formed and the total of clubs playing rugby in the county now number 46.

The amount of administration from these early years has changed considerably and, where in the late '30's the county affairs were handled by a selected group of dedicated individuals (who also carried on after the 1939-45 war years), it was obvious that pressure of county business demanded a change, and in 1964 it was agreed that every club in the county should each supply a representative to the Cheshire committee.

During the last 30 years (since the second world war), club facilities have improved beyond the imagination. When one thinks that pavilions and changing room luxuries were virtually non-existent, and recall changing in stables, old huts etc., with no hot water. Buckets and baths in the open with a cold shower to follow were the habit of the day.

Today there has been tremendous change, and clubs have been very ambitious and the club houses, with modern facilities around the county are places we are justly proud of, and great credit must go to the dedicated workers of these clubs, who by giving their all have strived for the improvement of their clubs.

The game during the late thirties and since the war has blossomed and been nurtured by many schools in the county, and a schools committee was one of the sub-committees formed from the new administration of 1964, although a schoolboy committee had operated in 1949 who inherited the precedent set by some clubs, who had taken care of schoolboy games during holiday periods.

The pattern was set and the Schools sub-committee (consisting of six main committee members and six schoolmasters) have steadfastly watched schools and studied reports and after trials etc., have turned out successful Cheshire Schools XV's at 19 and 15 age levels.

In 1966 a sub-committee was formed to handle colts rugby. This being for young men who do not qualify for schools rugby.



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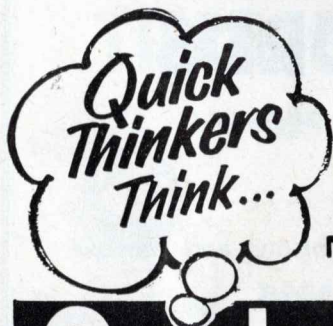
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Many clubs are fostering mini rugby and very young boys are being introduced to the game by competent club coaches, and one feels that the County Coaching Committee should be giving a great deal of help and advice to be sure these boys are being taught the game in a proper manner, and here one might ask parents to avoid being over zealous when watching these players, as touchline comments and enthusiasm may be contrary to what the coach is trying to instil into the impressionable young persons.

1969-70 saw the restarting of the Cheshire County Cup Competition which gives the opportunity to the ultimate winner to participate in the R.F.U. Club Cup Competition which has now been adopted and sponsored by John Player and Co. Ltd.

Previous comment paid tribute to the work of club players and officials who have built premises worthy of their dedication and now we must pay respect to the ladies committees of all clubs who unheralded and unsung, have taken over many facets of rugby life, and their wisdom has so often guided and helped their menfolk.

In conclusion, the county on this memorable occasion would like to express its thanks to the Rugby Football Union for its administration, and to the financial help it gives to clubs, and in the financial aura we thank the sports council for the generous grants they have made to the game, and finally, we express our thanks to the referees who control our games during the season; men who we cannot thank enough.

All these have made Rugby Union Football what it is, a game, a way of life, we are justly proud of.

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to another**

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There is an attractive Individual Members' tie in the Cheshire County colours.

We wish to build up our Individual Membership figure to an immediate target of 1,000 members, our present figure is very low for a County of our standing in the world of Rugby Football.

Whether you are player, an old player or a follower of Rugby, the County requires your support.

The Annual Individual Membership is £2, and membership for Season 1976-1977 can be obtained by posting same along with this form when completed.

Ladies are also eligible for Membership.

To: the Individual Members Secretary,  
Cheshire Rugby Union,  
D. O. DIAMOND,  
26 Nicholas Street,  
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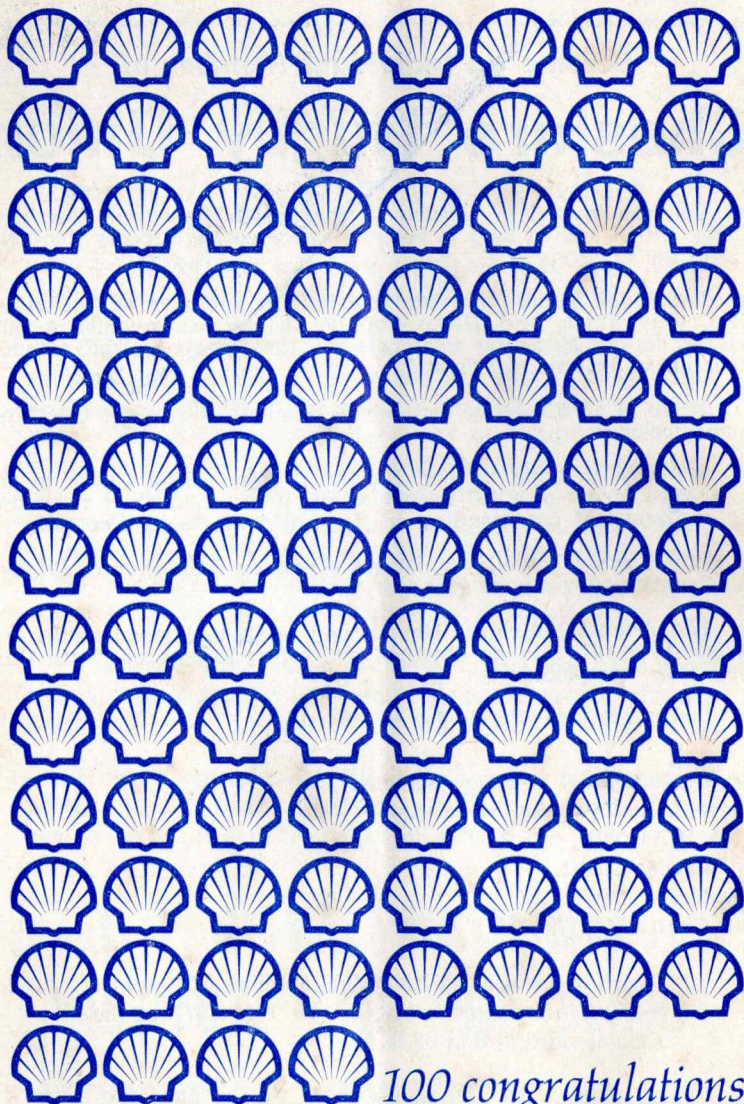
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